

## TONG MIDNIGHT MURDER SQUAD

CHINAMEN GLIDE BY 28 ENGINE'S DOOR TO BUTCHER HOP LEE.

Firemen and Policemen Soon on Their Feet and the Fire After Chase Over Rooftops—Supposed to Be On Leong Tong's Vengeance on Hip Sing.

Lee Poy, cousin of Lee Toy, "collector" for old Tom Lee, head of the On Leong Tong, is out on \$5,000 bail, and Charley Joe of 101 Ninth avenue is locked up in the Tombs, charged with murdering Hop Lee, a Hip Sing Tong man. There is also a murder charge against Mo Wong, who is in Bellevue Hospital with several broken ribs. Mo Wong belongs to the On Leong Tong and lives across the street from the tong headquarters, at 14 Mott street.

They killed Hop Lee in his laundry, at 609 East Eleventh street, butchering him with a short meat cleaver, almost under the nose of a policeman. There were five of them, the police say, that had the job of killing Hop Lee in revenge for the murder that the allies of the Chinatown society committed last Sunday night in the Chinese Theater.

Hop Lee was not a fighting man and so far as known was not mixed up in any of the Chinatown killings, but Tom Lee's men knew him as a schemer and a friend of Mock Duck, who was arrested after the assassinations in the playhouse and is now out on bail.

Pistols are noisy. A meat cleaver is very effective in the hands of a skilled artist. When Hop Lee died in Bellevue there were fifteen wounds on him, and his nose was gone. The murderers had less than five minutes to work in.

It was about 1 o'clock yesterday morning that five Chinamen shuffled along East Eleventh street past the house of Engine 28, keeping out of the bright light that streamed through a saloon window. Four of them wore blouses, baggy trousers and felt sandals, but Lee Poy wore American clothes. Charley Smith, the engine company's buff, who was sitting on the chain in front of the fire house, saw them glide past, and when Policeman Drescher of the Union Market station came along a minute or two later Smith pointed the Chinamen out to him.

"I saw 'em in Tompkins Square," said Drescher. "I'll get around the corner and you keep an eye on them."

The Chinamen had stopped when one of them saw the policeman, but as soon as he turned the corner lazily, with an assumption of indifference, they attacked him for the door of Hop Lee's laundry, half a block from the engine house. They hit the door all together and the look gave way. Smith saw them go in, and he waited for Drescher to appear. When the policeman poked his head around the corner Smith told him what was up.

Drescher lost no time then, but he was late by fifteen swings of a cleaver. Hop Lee was asleep, probably, when the murderers broke into the dark little laundry, and they went for him quick as cats. They dragged him out of bed, threw him on his back and poured into the street when they burst the door open. Two of the men, from the look of things there were two tong men at his head, two at his feet and another scientifically wielding Hop Lee's own cleaver.

They might have killed him at one blow, but they chipped pieces off him, beginning with his nose. Then they worked from his head to his feet, and the laundry was not pretty when Drescher ran in with a fireman or two from the engine company. The men of company 28 slid down the pole in a hurry and poured into the street when their buff told them what had been seen.

The assassins had disappeared when Drescher found Hop Lee groaning in the dark, not dead but nearly. The policeman went up the stairs of the five story building on the jump and found two Chinamen on the roof. One of them ran to the edge of the roof and jumped across a five foot gap to the other building. The other ran around the edge of the roof trying to find a way of escape. Drescher hadn't a club and didn't want to shoot. He went at the Chinaman with his fists and the yellow man closed with him. They fought on the edge of the roof for two or three minutes before Drescher knocked the Chinaman senseless. It was Charley Joe.

Lee Poy was the one who jumped the five foot space between the buildings. Then he ran north on the roof and took a twenty foot drop to the roof of the next building. He was up against it there and had to go down through the scum. The firemen, who were in the area, all it was worth, were waiting for him, and they closed in on him. He struggled a second or two, got a black eye and gave up.

Fireman Eickler had used Drescher's club to rap for help. Policeman Blake was there in a minute or two, and then the cops began to come in squads. The whole neighborhood, largely Yiddish and German, was awake and excited, and Eleventh street was full of lightly clothed men and women who didn't know what had happened and were shouting at the top of their voices.

Lee Poy hadn't any more than surrendered when Fireman Quinn raised the whoop balloon. He saw a Chinaman creeping along an alley wall near the laundry, going on all fours. He got to his feet when he heard Quinn's yell and ran limping up Avenue B to Thirteenth street. There the hue and cry was after him full force and he was nabbed at the corner. He was Mo Wong and he was badly hurt. In trying to escape when Drescher first broke in he fell down a flight of stairs and broke two ribs. The police found him lying on the roof as though on a wall until Drescher got into the street and got out through a back door.

A Bellevue ambulance took Hop Lee to the hospital. He was conscious, but dying fast. The police got the prisoners to the hospital just before the Hip Sing man died, but he was too far gone to notice any of them.

Yesterday morning Charley Joe and Lee Poy were arraigned before Magistrate Mot in the Essex Market court. He remanded them to the Coroner without bail and they were sent to the Tombs. Coroner Brown held Charley Joe, but accepted \$5,000 bail for Lee Poy. Pasquale Caponigri was his surety. Caponigri is a banker at 20 Mulberry street.

At the On Leong Tong headquarters yesterday the day was cloudy, with occasional showers of light to fresh southerly winds; average humidity, 77 per cent; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 3 A. M., 30.01; at 3 P. M., 30.03. The temperature yesterday was as follows: The thermometer is shown in the annexed table.

The weather was generally sultry and unsettled conditions continued over the Lake region, middle Atlantic and New England States yesterday. They were due to the low pressure passing over the northern section of the Lake and New England into the St. Lawrence Valley and to an area of high pressure on the middle Atlantic coast. This combination will probably continue for a day.

Fair weather was general over all the interior of the country, with moderate temperatures in the interior States, except in the extreme Southwest, where the mercury reached 96 and 100 degrees. It was cooler in the extreme Northwest. All conditions were favorable for corn and wheat.

In this city the day was cloudy, with occasional showers of light to fresh southerly winds; average humidity, 77 per cent; barometer, corrected to read to sea level, at 3 A. M., 30.01; at 3 P. M., 30.03. The temperature yesterday was as follows: The thermometer is shown in the annexed table.

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